

REMARKS

I. Objection to the drawings

In the Office action the drawings were objected to as having element 27 allegedly refer to differing elements shown therein. Applicant contends that element 27 refers to only one element in the figures: first curved portion. In the written specification element 27 was associated with upper part 25. This was a typographical error and appropriate amendments to the specification have been made to indicate that upper part is referenced, in the figures, with element number 25. Based upon the foregoing Applicant respectfully contends that the objection has been overcome.

II. Anticipation

In the Office action, the pending claims were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Horng. Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 2 and introduced new claims 3-21 to more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been added.

A. Claims 3 and 9

Each of independent claims 3 and 9 defines the element with the opposed ends, 231 and 271 being disposed on opposite sides of interconnected distal ends 221 and 281, with end 231 of lower part 20 being positioned between planar segment 21 and interconnected distal ends 221 and 281 and end 271 of upper part 25 being disposed between planar portion 26 and interconnected distal ends 221 and 281. To that end, each of claims 3 and 9 recites the following language: "said first end being disposed between said interconnected distal ends and said planar bottom segment

and said second end being disposed between said interconnected distal ends and said planar top portion".

Hornig does not teach Applicant's claimed invention, because Hornig advocates having the end of flat bottom soldering portion 18 positioned proximate to the flat top contact portion part 11 and end of the flat top contact portion positioned proximate to the flat bottom soldering portion 18. Based upon the differences between the invention defined by claims 3 and 9 and the teachings of Hornig, Applicant respectfully contends that Hornig does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention.

B. Claim 14

Claim 14 defines a body extending from a first end, terminating in a second end disposed opposite to said first end and spaced-apart therefrom, defining first and second curved portions with an interconnection region extending therebetween, with said first and second ends being positioned proximate to said interconnected region. Considering that the body defines the first and second ends being positioned proximate to the interconnected region, shown in the application 221, 281, Applicant contends that the argument set forth above with respect to claims 3 and 9 apply with equal weight here. Therefore, Applicant respectfully contends that claim 14 is not anticipated by Hornig.

B. Obviousness

Inchoate in any anticipation rejection is an obviousness rejection prompting Applicant to address the same. As mentioned above, Applicant's invention has opposed ends,

231 and 271 being disposed on opposite sides of interconnected distal ends 221 and 281, with end 231 of lower part 20 being positioned between planar segment 21 and interconnected distal ends 221 and 281 and end 271 of upper part 25 being disposed between planar portion 26 and interconnected distal ends 221 and 281. Applicant advocates this configuration to avoid having to introduce apertures in the body, see page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 2, as well as to simplify the manufacture of the same. See page 3, lines 3-9.

Horng, on the other hand, teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention by advocating the necessity of having the slots limit the sliding movement of the spring to avoid deformity of the same. See col. 3, lines 24-27.

Specifically, modifying Horng to include Applicant's claimed features would prevent the slots from serving their intended function, because front 14 and rear 15 sliding portions would not extend through the slots. Therefore, Applicant respectfully contends that a prima facie case of obviousness is not present with respect to Horng.

B. Claim 14

Claim 14 defines a body extending from a first end, terminating in a second end disposed opposite to said first end and spaced-apart therefrom, defining first and second curved portions with an interconnection region extending therebetween, with said first and second ends being positioned proximate to said interconnected region.

Considering that the body defines the first and second ends being positioned proximate to the interconnected region,

shown in the application 221, 281, Applicant contends that the arguments set forth above concerning the non-obviousness of claims 3 and 9 apply with equal weight here. Therefore, Applicant respectfully contends that a prima facie case of obviousness is not present with respect to claim 14.

3. The Dependent Claims

Considering that the dependent claims include all of the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend, the dependent claims are patentable to the extent that the independent claims are patentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully contend that the dependent claims define an invention suitable for patent protection.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

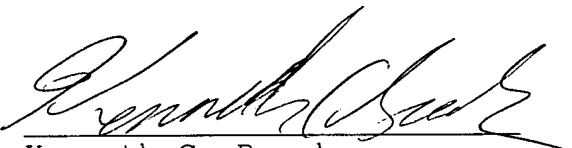
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Signed: 
Typed Name: Kenneth C. Brooks

Date: 11/4/04

Respectfully Submitted,

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